IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1724

Applicant : Stefan Hein Appln. No. : 10/574,867 Filed : April 6, 2006

Conf. No. : 5083

For : LOCK VALVE IN PARTICULAR FOR A STRIP PROCESSING UNIT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A check of our files indicates that the above-identified application has been filed more than one year and ten months without having received an Office Action. Therefore, please advise us of the status of this application. This request is made to avoid any lack of diligence being attributed to the Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

February 21, 2008

Date

Marcus P. Dolce, Registration No. 46 073

Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton, LLP

695 Kenmoor, S.E. Post Office Box 2567

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501

(616) 949-9610

MPD/msj